

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 01605 281328Z
ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, DR
SUBJECT: DOMINICAN POLICE KILL LEADER OF LOS TRINITARIOS

REF SANTO DOMINGO 1363

1. FORCES OF THE DOMINICAN NATIONAL POLICE SECRET SERVICE KILLED GUILLERMO RUBIROSA FERMIN, LEADER OF THE TERRORIST GROUP, LOS TRINITARIOS, SUNDAY, MARCH 26, DURING A GUN BATTLE THAT ALSO LEFT TWO OF HIS COMPANIONS DEAD IN THE NEARBY TOWN OF SAN PEDRO DE MARCORIS. ALSO KILLED WERE ROBERTO HENRIQUEZ GARCIA, AGED 15, AND RAFAEL ERNESTO CUSTODIO GARCIA, 14. THERE WERE NO POLICE CASUALTIES.

2. IN A MID-DAY SUNDAY PRESS CONFERENCE, POLICE CHIEF NEIT NIVAR SEIJAS AND NATIONAL POLICE SECRET SERVICE CHIEF RAMON HENRIQUEZ FIGUEROA ANNOUNCED THE DEATH OF THE GUERRILLA LEADER, SAYING THAT TROOPS SHOT HIM AFTER BEING FIRED ON BY RUBIROSA AND ONE OF THE YOUTHS. A COMPANION OF RUBIROSA AND WIFE OF A TRINITARIO SLAIN IN 1976, ROSA ELENA RODRIGUEZ, INSITED THAT POLICE EXECUTED THE TRINITARIO CHIEF AFTER HAVING CAPTURED HIM UNARMED. PRESS REPORTS OF EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS STATE THAT POLICE GUNNED DOWN CUSTODIO WHEN HE TRIED TO SURRENDER. POLICE REFUSED TO RELEASE RUBIROSA'S BODY TO HIS WIDOW, AND HAD IT BURIED SOME-
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PAGE 02 SANTO 01605 281328Z

TIME YESTERDAY.

3. RUBIROSA'S DEATH CAPPED A FOUR YEAR SEARCH FOR THE GUERRILLA LEADER, CHARGED WITH 18 VARIOUS OFFENSES, INCLUDING A 1974 ATTACK ON THE LA ROMANA OFFICE OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE AND AN ASSAULT THE NEXT YEAR AGAINST A BRANCH OF THE STATE-OWNED BANCO DE RESERVAS IN SANTO DOMINGO. POLICE ALSO LINKED RUBIROSA AND HIS

GROUP TO THE DEATHS OF SEVERAL POLICE OFFICERS. DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, REPORTERS WERE SHOWN A MACHINE GUN THAT, ACCORDING TO NIVAR, WAS CAPTURED IN THE RAID AND BELONGED TO AN OFFICER KILLED IN 1975.

4. DOMINICAN FORCES INTESIFIED EFFORTS TO LOCATE RUBIROSА TWO WEEKS AGO (REFTEL) IN FOUR DAYS OF COORDINATED RAIDS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND SUCCEEDED IN CAPTURING RAFAEL MORALES MERCEDES, SAID TO BE SECOND IN COMMAND OF LOS TRINITARIOS. PRESENT AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE, MARALES STATED THE GROUP WAS SUFFERING A LEADERSHIP CRISIS DUE TO RUBIROSА'S REFUSAL TO SHARE POWER WITH OTHER MEMBERS AND HIS INABILITY TO ACCEPT CHANGES IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE TRINITARIOS HAD LOST THEIR FOLLOWING AND COMMITTED THE "STUPIDITY" OF BECOMING "ISOLATED FROM THE MASSES."

5. RUBIROSА, THE SON OF A CAPTAIN IN TRUJILLO'S ARMY, BEGAN HIS POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN SCHOOL BY JOINING THE PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DOMINICANO (PRD) AND ITS YOUTH WING, UNION DE ESTUDIANTES REVOLUCIONARIOS (UNER). HE PARTICIPATED IN THE 1965 REVOLUTION ON THE CONSTITUTIONALIST SIDE AND WAS IMPRISONED FOR A PERIOD IN SAN ISIDRO. LATER HE AFFILIATED WITH THE EXTREMIST MOVIMIENTO POPULAR DOMINICANO AND WHEN THAT GROUP FACTIONALIZED BECAME ACTIVE IN VOZ PROLETARIA. RUBIROSА WAS ARRESTED TWICE IN 1966 IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEATHS OF TWO AMERICANS DURING AN ASSAULT ON A LAUNDRY. HE WAS AGAIN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY IN 1970, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SANTO 01605 281328Z

BUT RELEASED ON BAIL. BY THIS TIME, WITH OTHER LEFT WING DISSIDENTS, HE HAD ORGANIZED LOS TRINITARIOS, A MARXIST GROUP DEDICATED TO THE GUERRILLA FOCO CONCEPT OF ARMED REVOLUTION. POLICE HAVE ATTRIBUTED VARIOUS TERRORIST ACTS TO THE GROUP, INCLUDING ASSAULTS ON AN OFFICE OF THE DOMINICAN INTERNAL REVENUE AND THE BANCO DE RESERVAS. TRINITARIOS HAVE BEEN REGULARLY LINKED TO THE DEATHS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMY AND POLICE FORCE AND MOST RECENTLY, THE GROUP WAS ACCUSED OF ATTACKING MONEY CHANGERS IN SANTO DOMINGO'S BUSINESS DISTRICT. FOUR PEOPLE DIED IN THAT ATTACK.

6. COMMENT. THE DEATH OF RUBIROSА, ALONG WITH THE EARLIER CAPTURE OF MORALES HAS DEALT LOS TRINITARIOS A SEVERE BLOW. IT MORALES' DECLARATIONS ARE ATAKEN AT FACE VALUE, IT IS DOUBTFUL THE GROUP CAN CONTINUE AS AN EFFECTIVE TERROR GROUP. EVEN THOUGH VERSIONS BY WITNESSES OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF RUBIROSА'S DEATH CONFLICT SHARPLY WITH TOSE OF THE POLICE, REACTION, SO FAR, HAS BEEN TO ATTRIBUTE RUBIROSА'S VIOLENT END TO THE VIOLENT LIFE HE LED. HURWITCH

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